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and causes of divorces granted at such term, in the first-named state to the secretary of the state board of health, and in the other to the registrar of vital statistics, and the returns so made are to be published annually.

Annual reports are required to be made in relation to divorces applied for and granted, the causes therefor, etc., by clerks of courts in Massachusetts and Vermont, to the secretary of state, and in Rhode Island to the secretary of the state board of health.

In Massachusetts the divorce statistics are to be reported annually to the legislature. In Rhode Island they are to be published annually, and in Vermont biennially.

In the year 1883 a law was passed in Maine requiring clerks of courts to make reports to the secretary of state within thirty days after the adjournment of any court having jurisdiction of divorce, in relation to applications and decrees therefor. This law was repealed by act approved February 1, 1887.

In Indiana, Minnesota, and Ohio statistics relating to divorces are collected and published under general provisions of law, in Indiana by the chief of the bureau of statistics, in Minnesota by the assistant secretary of state, who is *ex-officio* commissioner of statistics, and in Ohio by the secretary of state. No specific provisions directing such collection and publication are found in the statutes of the respective states.

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## STUDY OF STATISTICS.

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In the September number, 1889, of the *Publications of the American Economic Association* there is published a paper on the *Study of Statistics*, by Prof. Davis R. Dewey. The paper was read at the last annual meeting of the Association. The following is an abstract:—

It is devoted to an outline of a possible course in statistics suitable for colleges. A description is given of the science of statistics as developed in Germany and France, which is shown to be encyclopædic in its character. It is thought such a course should be pursued only in a post-graduate department or by advanced students. For students of a purely collegiate rank, however, it is suggested that instruction in statistics may be given in connection with courses on Commerce, History of Industry, and Finance, or other subjects of economic history. The mere proving of statistical tables, in connection with United States finance, will be a benefit. In this way the student will acquire some delicacy in reconciling discrepancies, and he will gain independence and judgment. Similar laboratory work in statistics can be applied to the tariff history of the United States, and

here acquaintance will be made with the Commerce and Navigation Reports.

In connection with the History of Industry, valuable use may be made of Reports of Bureaus of Statistics of Labor. The Statistics of Municipal Reports open up another field. Some attention is also given to the method of study to be followed, and three different lines were suggested.

(1) Research and Verification, (2) Tabulation, (3) Graphic Illustration. Of these different methods practical illustrations were given. For advanced work in statistics, attention is called to the abundant material in Registration, Health, Insurance Reports, the Reports of Boards of Charities and Correction, and of Prison Commissioners.

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### PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELEVENTH CENSUS.

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*Report of the Superintendent of Census to the Secretary of the Interior.* Nov. 6, 1889. Washington, 1889. Pp. 27.

*Census Bulletin, No. 1, Nov. 30, 1889.* A list of Supervisors' districts. Pp. 12.

*Census Bulletin, No. 2, Dec. 20, 1889.* Products of the Fisheries of the United States. Pp. 8.

The report of the Superintendent of the Census gives an authoritative and detailed account of the methods to be pursued in the taking the next census. It is announced that several of the reports will be published next year; and also that nearly all the statistical experts and chiefs of divisions were trained in the tenth census. Some minor changes are to be introduced in the population schedule. In Vital statistics the most important new features of the work are as follows:

(1) A special study of the birth and death rates and of the principal causes of death in twenty-four of our largest cities, to show where the highest and lowest death rates prevail, and what the relations of these are to topography, drainage, character of habitations, overcrowding, poverty, and other environments.

(2) A special study of the influence of race upon fecundity and mortality in the United States, including studies of the birth and death rates of mulattoes as distinguished from the negroes on the one hand and the whites on the other, and of the principal European races which have contributed to the population of this country.

(3) A special study of the relations of occupation to death rates and to particular causes of death, as shown by a detailed study of figures derived from the records of our largest manufacturing cities for